



UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

folio

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Health Canada issues warning after U of A researcher discovers health threat

Harmful toxin found in blue-green algae

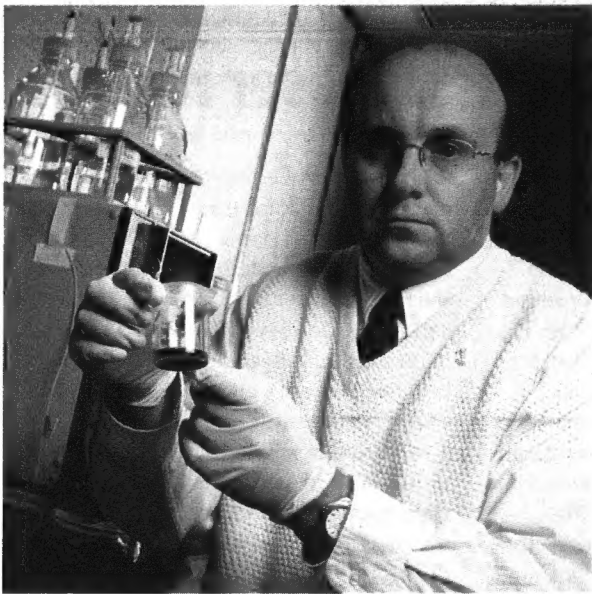
By Geoff McMaster

Research conducted by a U of A biochemist prompted Health Canada to issue a warning that blue-green algae health food products may contain a toxin harmful to the liver and, despite unfounded reports it can be used to treat Attention Deficit Disorder, should not be given to children.

The warning was issued after Health Canada independently confirmed research conducted by Dr. Charles Holmes. Holmes discovered certain strains of blue-green algae produce a toxin called microcystin which can cause problems ranging from gastro-intestinal discomfort to jaundice. The toxin is also considered a potent cancerous tumor promoter. Children should not be given any product containing blue-green algae because they appear to be more sensitive to the microcystins and have lower body weights which puts them at greater risk of developing serious liver damage.

Blue-green algae — sold widely in tablet, capsule or powder forms as a natural source of minerals — has become a popular diet supplement in recent years. Consumers of blue-green algae products may report boosted levels of energy and feelings of general well-being. That's because microcystins may mimic hormones such as adrenaline and glucagon, a hypothesis Holmes says he plans to test in the near future.

"Frankly, you can't rely on the fact that any of those products are safe," says Holmes. "Pound for pound microcystins are as potent as cobra venom." The toxin works by bonding to and inhibiting enzymes called protein phosphatases responsible for a number of cell functions.



U of A's Dr. Charles Holmes: "Pound for pound, microcystins in blue-green algae are as potent as cobra venom."

While Holmes admits there is not yet enough evidence to demonstrate the cumulative effects of ingesting blue-green algae over a long period of time, he does know the toxin forms "a covalent, permanent bond with its protein phosphatase target and that would suggest it's difficult to remove...that is a major concern."

In large enough doses, microcystins can cause severe tissue damage in the liver, says Holmes, "not unlike cirrhosis of the liver due to alcohol poisoning." He adds they have even been linked to fatalities, mostly in kidney dialysis patients. Sixty such patients died in a Brazil clinic three years ago after ingesting water contaminated with the toxin.

Funded by the Medical Research Council of Canada and the Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, Holmes says he's known about the presence of the toxin in blue-green algae for at least two years but couldn't confirm it until developing an adequately sensitive test using protein phosphatases. He randomly sampled eight brands of blue-green algae purchased at Edmonton health food stores. All had amounts of microcystin several times higher than what Health Canada considers safe for daily consumption. A subsequent Health Canada survey turned up one product with

ten times their own safety guidelines. Despite Health Canada's safety guidelines, however, it is not yet known precisely how much of the toxin is considered harmful. In small amounts, says Holmes, it may even be beneficial. So far, there is also no proven way of distinguishing the toxin-producing strain of blue-green algae from non-toxic strains, he says, nor are there tests available for all of the different toxins produced by blue-green algae.

"Blue-green algae is as natural as anything — it's been around for billions of years and everyone knows that. But the problem is, if you have a very, very small quantity of the toxic strain, you wouldn't necessarily see that when you're harvest-

Madrigal Singers Land First Prize

U of A's Madrigal Singers have won first prize in the 46th annual Cork International Choral Competition in Ireland. The choir was one of 11 invited out of 38 applicants from around the world to participate in the event.

The Cork competition, considered one of the most prestigious, is the latest international win for the Madrigal Singers.

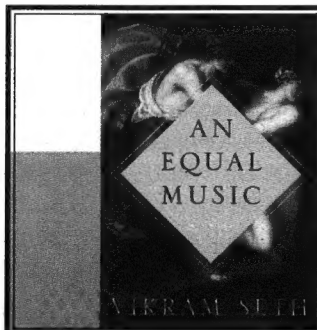
Look for an upcoming feature in *Folio* on this indisputably recognized choral ensemble! ■

ing it," says Holmes.

It's only possible to test for the toxin — not for the algae that produces it. Health Canada is now conducting an extensive survey of blue-green algae products to assess the threat to public health. They encourage anyone concerned about a specific brand to consult them directly. Preliminary findings suggest products made from blue-green algae harvested in natural lakes, as opposed to controlled ponds, may have greater potential for contamination.

Holmes is now collaborating with Health Canada to develop a field kit to detect microcystins in drinking water or in water that might be used for agricultural purposes. "We've long known that many lakes in central Alberta are contaminated with blue-green algae toxins. It's a serious public health issue because many of these lakes — supplying Wetaskiwin, Camrose or other towns — can become contaminated." ■

For further information, contact Health Canada at (613) 957-1588, fax (613) 952-7747.



AN EQUAL MUSIC

BY VIKRAM SETH AUTHOR OF "A SUITABLE BOY"

NOW AVAILABLE AT UNIVERSITY BOOKSTORES

Alberta Pork Research Centre announced

Four key players in Alberta pork research have signed an agreement to establish a new pork research centre for the province. Alberta Pork, in partnership with Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development (AAFRD), Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) and the University of Alberta, signed an agreement recently to formally launch the development of the Alberta Pork Research Centre.

One of the major tenets of this program is to maintain world-class swine research facilities and programs at the participating institutions. It will also include an enhanced technology-transfer program, designed to direct research results and production information into producers' hands.

"This new research centre will provide training, research and technology-transfer programs to meet the needs of a growing, globally competitive and sustainable pork industry," says Alberta Pork chairman Fred Olthuis.

The concept for the Alberta Pork Research Centre also includes the development of eight full-time positions, with a focus on pork research and teaching, to be spread throughout the participating institutions.

During the course of the five-year agreement, researchers working within the Alberta Pork Research Centre will have access to a broad base of resources available in Alberta, including the swine research facilities at the University of Alberta, AAFRD (including the provincial food processing laboratories at Leduc) and the AAFC Lacombe Research Centre. ■

ILO is 'at your service'

New director says new focus for Industry Liaison Office

By Lucianna Ciccocioppo

It's a good thing there's a Second Cup coffee shop located right in Campus Tower. That's the site of the U of A's Industry Liaison Office, and new director Dr. Peter Robertson needs to have his daily dose of steamy hot latté (espresso with frothed milk). It's a habit he picked up when living and working in Milan, Italy, where everybody who's anybody enjoyed their breakfast standing up at a cappuccino bar on their way to work.

It was a good way to network. And that's exactly what Robertson wants ILO to do more of — networking — starting right on campus.

"Our main clientele are our researchers. I'd like to focus on stronger services to researchers." He explains the focus will complement the strong drive to bring in the dollars. "The revenue will come if we provide good services. And it's important to communicate that to our community."

Robertson wants U of A researchers to think of ILO right after they say "Eureka!" And he's targeting a number of strategies to do that. One is collaborating and forming partnerships with "sister" research institutions, such as the University of Calgary, Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research, the Alberta Research Council and the networks of Centres of Excellence on campus. This, says Robertson, will foster a common vision and will help smooth the technology transfer process.

A geo-technical engineer, with 10 years of industry experience in Europe, Canada and southeast Asia, Robertson says he brings a small business perspective to ILO in addition to an academic one. He was chief engineer of a consulting company in Hong Kong and was also a partner in a



The Industry Liaison Office team.

spin-off company launched 15 years ago, ConeTech Investigations.

At the same time, says Robertson, he knows what it's like to work in the "academic" trenches. "I have an understanding of what researchers' issues are: applying for grants, finding grad students, working on contracts." Anything to make the tech-transfer system run more smoothly is being scrutinized, from making the ILO Web site more user friendly, to aggressively hiring new staff.

Four Faculty of Business MBAs, specializing in tech-transfer, have recently joined the team. Robertson says it's part of bridging the highly technical language of researchers with the economic language of the business world.

One faculty with which he'd like to interact more is the Faculty of Arts. Following an initiative he began before taking the helm at ILO, Robertson wants to aggressively pursue new instructional technologies and provide marketing and copy-right protection expertise.

With professors involved in interactive

teaching, and producing instructional CD-Roms, Robertson hopes to see "centres" of teaching technologies in each faculty. Revenues can then be funnelled back into the centres to sustain the expenses of upgrading or producing new products. "This is a little novel for the U of A and for ILO," says Robertson, but so far the idea has had positive feedback.

He's also working on an initiative called Connect Alberta. "It's modeled after a successful program at the University of California in San Diego. It tries to create an environment for entrepreneurs to build up small businesses close to the money, management and marketing partners." And, of course, close to the technology research, which is why the companies locate close to a university. The proof lies in the high number of tech and bio-tech companies near San Diego.

So if any of these ideas pique your interest, give ILO a call. Or drop by early mornings at the Second Cup for a break-fast-cum-networking session with 'Dottor' Peter Robertson. ■

folio

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...it makes sense

\$1.6 million lights up laser research chair

Canada's natural resource industry will benefit from leading-edge laser research of an industrial research chair recently announced at the University of Alberta.

The new \$1.6 million chair, co-funded by Montreal-based MPB Technologies Inc. (MPBT) and the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC), will develop new laser-based tools for process control related to oil, lumber and minerals. Given the immense scale of the natural resources industry in Canada, improvements in process control can have significant benefits for the Canadian economy.

"The University of Alberta is quickly becoming famous in Canada for engineering excellence," said Dr. Tom Brzustowski, president of NSERC. "This is U of A's fifth chair currently funded by NSERC and each is in a different aspect of engineering."

Dr. Robert Fedosejevs, professor of electrical and computing engineering at the U of A, was named to the chair. An internationally recognized authority in the field of laser development and applications, Fedosejevs will head a research team that includes another faculty member, two research associates and eight U of A graduate students.

The chair will help develop techniques and instruments to establish material properties in real time. These instruments will take advantage of the latest developments in modern laser and optical technology.

Canada's natural resource industries are facing increasing competition from other nations where production costs are lower. To thrive, Canadian industries must use new technologies to find high grade reserves of raw materials, improve the efficiency of production of refined materi-

als, minimize the associated environmental effects, and accurately grade the finished products.

"Our goal is to help establish one of the most renowned centres in the world in this field, while simultaneously intensifying our ties with the University of Alberta and the research group led by Dr. Fedosejevs," said Dr. M. P. Bachynski, president of MPB Technologies Inc.

MPB Technologies Inc. is a privately owned company specializing in high-technology products, systems and services. The company has been pioneering the applications of laser and optical techniques to instrumentation for the natural resource industries. More than 70 per cent of the company's business is for export. MPBT has operations in four Canadian provinces and in Melbourne Beach, Fla., with two divisions based in Edmonton and Airdrie, Alta. ■

Web Watch

By Randy Pavelich

Roadside America

<http://www.roadsideamerica.com>

This site bills itself as "Your online guide to offbeat tourist attractions." I'd call it a very special corner of the Weird Wide Web. It demonstrates people can, and in some cases do, travel around looking for the oddest things they can find. You can select sites organized by state, or wander about through the generous cross-referencing. Don't miss the section devoted to cataloguing the proliferation of "Muffler Man" statues across the lower 48 states!

The Evil House of Cheat

<http://www.cheathouse.com>

These guys claim to be "leading the industry since 1995." Their "industry," by the way, is supplying exams, essays and papers to anyone with the cash. Every educator should be aware of sites like this because, thanks to the Internet, it's available to all students. Fortunately, many of the links to other cheat sites are broken. This is mildly reassuring because many of those links pointed to sites ending in '.edu' (educational organizations).

Jeffrey Zeldman Presents

<http://www.zeldman.com>

There are some Web sites with stylish design, a broad range of useful information and good organization; there are some Web sites that avoid these qualities like the plague. Fortunately for us, Jeffrey Zeldman's site is in the former category. He is a graphic designer, Web specialist and sharp wit with a site far too large to be just a hobby. Some of the hot spots here are the 'Ad Graveyard' and the 'Ask Dr. Web' section.

E-mail your suggestions to Randy Pavelich, university Web manager at info@ualberta.ca

The battle of the student "bulge"

Ontario universities' enrolment could swell by 88,900 additional students by 2010—where will they all go?

You could almost say the students will be marching two by two — not exactly heading to the safety of an ark — but rather, knocking on the 17 admission doors of Ontario universities. Many will be wondering, 'do I have a spot?'

It's a question parents, students and high-school guidance counsellors are asking these days as the new millennium approaches but nobody is quite sure of the answer. That's because the province is bracing for a huge onslaught of students over the next decade, primarily because of the elimination of Grade 13.

In fact, Ontario's post-secondary education system is grappling with a projected surge in demand that's probably left many a university president sleepless. According to a recent report published by the Council of Ontario Universities (COU), numerous factors contribute to the growing demand for a university education: an increase in the 18-24 age group; rising participation rates; changing workforce requirements; and the impact of secondary-school reforms.

THE DREADED "DOUBLE COHORT"

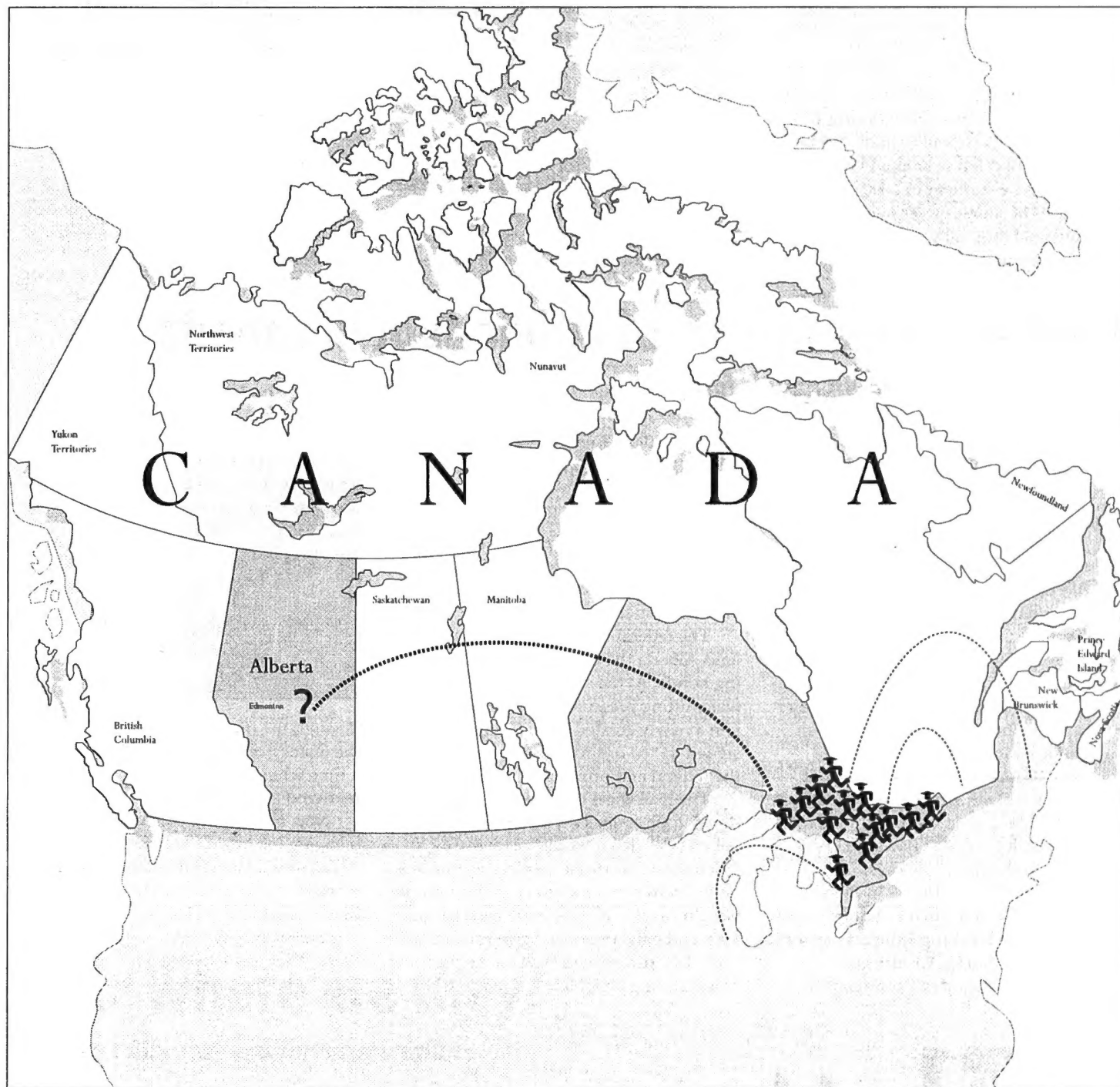
Ontario is the last province to abolish Grade 13. Starting this fall, students will face a new curriculum that will squeeze the long-tradition of five high-school years into four. That means, by 2003, there will be a combined graduating class — the last of the Grade 13 graduates and the first of the Grade 12s — entering the college and university system in Canada's most populous province.

One cannot look at
the potential increase
without saying,
'Something has to
give here.'

It's been dubbed the "double cohort" and it spells double trouble for many of Ontario's universities. COU's report states the reforms will create significant demand on university spaces between 2002-2007, but no one is really sure how the demand will actually play itself out year by year over the peak period. The height is deemed to be 2004-2005, when Ontario universities could have to accommodate some 33,500 additional students.

"One cannot look at the potential increase without saying, 'Something has to give here,'" says Arnice Cadieux, COU's executive director, public affairs. "Some universities are operating at capacity and some are almost there." Some, says Cadieux, have space, but do these institutions have the programs in the locations students will be looking for?

There's more to the increase than the double cohort. The COU report states participation by the 18 to 24-year-old age group almost doubled to 22 per cent in 1997-98, up from more than 13 per cent in 1985-86. It predicts it will hit 25 per cent by 2010. Moreover this age group, the primary population group for university education, is also growing — up 18 per cent by 2010, or 190,000 more young Ontarians by the end of the next decade. In addition, participation by people in mid-career is also rising, as many head back to universities for upgrading their skills.



U of A recruitment in Ontario is in action-mode. "We're still hopeful and positive we'll attract students," says Susan Main, assistant registrar (liaison and recruitment).

These combined factors — participation rates, population growth, workplace upgrading requirement and the elimination of Grade 13 — means Ontarians' demand for university education could increase by almost 40 per cent over 10 years. That's a growth of 88,900 to a total 317,900 seeking post-secondary placements. It's "equivalent to providing for as many students as the current combined enrolments of Lakehead, Laurentian, McMaster, Ottawa, Waterloo and York universities," according to the COU.

"It's pressure from all around," says Cadieux.

It all boils down to more money — for increased spaces, scholarships and bursaries, upgrading facilities and hiring faculty. Ontario's budget of May 4 allocated \$742 million for capital investment for universities and colleges. It's an important step forward, says COU chair and University of Toronto President Robert Prichard. But he adds, "We look forward to working with the government to address the other key challenge of providing adequate public investment in operating resources."

U OF A SET FOR RECRUITING ONTARIANS

U of A's Assistant Registrar (Liaison and Recruitment) Susan Main says this university is already in action-mode. "We

actually anticipated this growth several years ago. Knowing [the Ontario government] was thinking of making changes to the curriculum, we began an active recruitment program in Ontario, involving six weeks of school visitations." The number of student recruits from Ontario has remained steady — about 125 a year — except for a large increase (up to 166) three years ago.

"That's attributed to the Faculty of Education. It had a very aggressive campaign in the post-secondary institutions in Ontario and it was very successful," says Main.

The U of A continues to operate its strategy with the expectation student numbers from Ontario will increase. "The initial outreach was first to break into the market in Ontario because western schools are not known to visit high schools in the Ontario market. We're building our relationships very carefully with schools, counsellors, staff and students," says Main.

She believes Ontarians have yet to realize the crunch they'll be faced with in the new millennium because of a post-secondary system boasting 17 universities. "Students have quite a choice," she says, not

only in their backyards but across the border too.

Main says U of A's recruitment is targeted to cities such as Thunder Bay, Sault Ste. Marie, and the Toronto and Ottawa areas. It focuses on academically rigorous

schools with international baccalaureate and advanced placement programs.

"We're still hopeful and positive that we'll attract students, particularly as we approach the 2003 [double cohort] boom," adds Main.

Meanwhile, statistics indicate the province of Alberta will also be anticipating a student boom, as the children of

baby boomers — the so-called "echo boom" — enter the post-secondary school system within the next decade.

Main, however, doesn't flinch about the expected two student booms in Ontario and Alberta. As collaborative programs with community colleges across Alberta develop, "We're still able to accommodate our Alberta students well," she says. "Students can only benefit from an expanded national student body, like they do with an increasingly international one."

Says Main: "If we're to have a challenge, that's a nice challenge to have." ■

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nice challenge to have.

— Susan Main,
assistant registrar
(liaison and recruitment)

Native Viennese supports graduate studies of his homeland

By Geoff McMaster

Dr. Joseph Kandler had been searching for years for just the right way to honor his homeland while supporting U of A students. The native Austrian had provided some funding for undergraduate business students studying in Vienna since 1987. But when the Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies (CCACES) opened last fall, it seemed like the perfect fit.

And so Kandler and his wife, Melitta, have created the centre's first fellowship for graduate studies, valued at \$3,000 per year. Covering a four-month period of research, it will be awarded annually to a student in the MA or PhD program studying Austria or another central European country in any department in the Faculty of Arts. The first fellowship will be awarded in the summer of 2000.

"This is of course closer to my heart, inasmuch as I originally wanted to support efforts on the part of the Faculty of Arts in

the direction of central European and Austrian history," says Kandler. "History is one of the most sensitive areas, and the most easily forgotten, and therefore worthy of support."

He chose to support graduate work, he says, because it has a "more concentrated and more defined" focus. There are also clear parallels between the histories of central Europe and Canada he'd like to see explored in detail. "The presence of Hungary within the Austrian-Hungarian monarchy is very much similar to the relationship between



Keeping Austrian history alive: Dr. Joseph and Melitta Kandler.

Quebec and other parts of Canada," he says.

The Canadian Centre for Austrian and Central European Studies was established last year through an agreement with the federal government of Austria and the Austrian Conference of University Presidents. Its purpose is to conduct research on the "rich cultural traditions" of the "ancestral home of such a large number of Canadians," says director, Dr. Franz Szabo, adding it "puts us on the map as the best place [in Canada] for Austrian studies."

Born in 1921, Kandler graduated from the Hochschule fuer Welthandel, now the Wirtschaftsuniversitaet, with a doctorate in business administration in 1949. He immigrated to Canada in 1952 to work as a chartered accountant for industry.

Kandler's association with the U of A began in 1972 when he became a member of the long-range planning committee of the Faculty of Business.

In 1973 he was elected to the Senate for a six-year term, spearheading a task force on the adoption of second-language policies. He also served on the Board of Governors between 1982 and 1986 and he and his wife were always involved in the cultural life of the city.

Melitta Kandler began her studies at the University of Graz, Austria and completed her MA in religious studies at the University of Alberta. She also worked in the city as an accountant. In 1986, the couple retired to Salt Spring Island.

"[Joseph Kandler] was someone who played a major role in the Austrian community here," says Szabo, who has known Kandler for almost 30 years. "He's been a long time patron...and an old friend of the university. It was important to him to keep this connection alive." ■

UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA CAMPAIGN

Book explores history of public debt in Canada

Alberta's one-time default largely forgotten

By Geoff McMaster

For a province preoccupied with so-called "debt hysteria," Alberta has an awfully short memory concerning its credit history, says Dr. Robert Ascah, author of *Politics and Public Debt: The Dominion, the Banks and Alberta's Social Credit*.

"It's what I call the collective amnesia of Albertans," says Ascah, referring to the province's forgotten failure to make good on mature government bonds in 1936. Perhaps the default is something we'd prefer not to remember, but even when Ascah runs information sessions for Alberta Treasury Branches employees, most of them draw a blank when asked about that unsettling moment in our province's history. "Virtually no one knows, so I find that quite fascinating," he says.

In simple terms, the 1936 default was the result of a power struggle between eastern banking interests and the newly elected Social Credit government of Alberta under Premier Bill

Aberhart. "The banks worked with the newly created Bank of Canada to, in effect, isolate the province," says Ascah. "There was a great fear that the Social Credit contagion would go to Saskatchewan and Manitoba, who were also in desperate straits."

The federal government had agreed to lend Alberta the money to pay its maturing bonds. At the same time, however, it was putting pressure on the province to join a newly created Loan Council designed to "co-ordinate the borrowings of the federal and provincial governments."

The loan wasn't supposed to be conditional upon council membership, but when Alberta decided it would be foolhardy to "filch away" financial sovereignty, the federal government reneged on its loan promise. On April 1, 1936, Alberta became "the first, and only, provincial government in Canada's history to default on the principal of a maturing obligation," writes Ascah.



through the post-war era. Ascah traces the history of the country's fiscal policy to a time when no one thought public debt mattered all that much.

Now in charge of policy and strategic planning for Alberta Treasury Branches, Ascah's own interest in public debt began when he was a junior auditor with the Auditor General in Ottawa in the early '70s. The debt was only beginning to accumulate then. "That really tweaked my interest," he says. "And the economists were basically

Politics and Public Debt, published by U of A Press, takes a hard look at the story of government debt in Canada long before the crisis of the past decade, particularly during the Depression

saying, debts were not a problem."

Ascah was later responsible for drafting prospectuses for the Alberta government when oil prices fell to \$10 per barrel and the province was borrowing "billions of dollars." So when he began researching his book in the '80s, originally as a doctoral dissertation in political science, he had no shortage of first-hand knowledge upon which to draw. From his front-row seat in the credit game, he saw a clear need to elucidate the relationship between debt and democracy.

"This is a story that cries out to be told," writes U of A economics professor Dr. Paul Boothe. "Robert Ascah has done us a great service in bringing alive this little-known but critical chapter of our history. His account of this period helps us to see how the economics and politics of government debt shaped the development of our country and brought us to where we are today." ■

folio letters to the editor

Understanding and cooperation, not guns, key to deterring campus crime

As the AAS:UA representative on the Advisory Committee of Campus Security Services, I read *Folio's* article "The Fight against campus crime: Do we need armed guards?" (April 23) with mixed feelings.

I was disappointed a campus computer theft which left the victim of the crime "a bit excessive" in his response should have triggered coverage about security services at the U of A. For *Folio* to have devoted a full page to this incident seems to me to be sensational. The full-page coverage should have been given a year ago when the new Campus Security director, Brian McLeod, was hired. At that point, an even-handed discussion could have prevailed regarding the security needs of campus, and the focus of the coverage could have been on the vision and style of the new director.

Mr. McLeod brings to this campus a vision which was warmly and firmly endorsed by a selection committee fully representative of all groups on campus. U of A has been very fortunate in finding a person like Mr. McLeod who is so commit-

ted to respecting the special nature of the university community. The selection committee was unanimous in its desire to move away from a police-style operation of campus security which, by its very image, inspires fear of "whatever might be out there" and even a sense of vulnerability and helplessness on the part of those who "need to be protected". We wanted to move, instead, towards a community-style of protection in which all participants on campus feel that their security service is there to work collaboratively with us. It would be sad, wouldn't it, if some poor sod who stole a computer was shot when the real solution was to change the locks on the door of the office or to develop a better system to provide for the computer needs of students on campus.

The photograph accompanying the article in *Folio* is more accurate in saying the thousand words that need to be said about campus security. The officers are smiling and friendly, relaxed and casually together with a member of the academic

staff who is experiencing the need for their support. I am under the impression that this is the image which the majority of the campus community wants.

Something the Advisory Committee to Campus Security Services has been urging is the documentation of crime on campus so that it is easy to ascertain whether crime is increasing, or decreasing, and what kinds of crime need to be addressed. This is how security decisions may be made rationally, based on statistical realities rather than impressions formed in the heat of the moment. Let's face it. Computer crimes can be reduced through careful measures, but theft will never be entirely stamped out. We will always be faced with "isolated" occurrences. And guns won't change that, except, perhaps, to make it worse. Just look south for proof.

I agree with Dr. Francescutti that we need to be "visionary" and prepare for the future. What Dr. Francescutti doesn't know, however, is he is not the first to have perceived this need. This is why the

Security Advisory Committee is in place. It creates a forum in which all groups on campus may speak through their representative and make their views and concerns known to Campus Security. I have encouraged my colleagues through the medium of the AAS:UA newsletter to get in touch with me about their concerns, their advice, their queries. I would like the tie between us and security to be dynamic, collegial and collaborative. Brian McLeod would like that as well. Understanding and cooperation is what replaces guns.

As to an outsider's dream of "an operational police station located on or right next to the university," I hope outsiders who wish to act out a vision to transform the way the university goes about its business understand the university is a democratic institution which covets its self-determination. We are happy with our Campus Security Service, thank you very much. It is effective and responsible already.

Dr. Sandra Niessen
Department of Human Ecology

Abolition 2000: Working for a nuclear weapon-free world

By Dr. Tim Hartnagel, Dept. of Sociology and Dr. Tom Keating, Dept. of Political Science

The end of the Cold War has not brought an end to the threat posed by nuclear weapons. There are at least 30,000 nuclear weapons in the world with a power equivalent to 500,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs. Even if current arms control plans are realized, the number of nuclear weapons in the world would only fall to 15,000-20,000 by 2007. The use of a small fraction of these weapons would be a disaster unparalleled by anything experienced in the history of the human race.

While there is little likelihood any sane world leader would embark upon a nuclear war, as long as nuclear weapons continue to exist there is a serious danger they will be used — whether by accident, miscalculation, desperation, madness or a deliberate terrorist act. The use of nuclear weapons has been threatened on at least 16 occasions. Accidents continue to occur due to human error and technical failures.

One of the most serious “false alarms” occurred only four years ago on Jan. 25 — long after the end of the Cold War. A Norwegian-U.S. joint research rocket — designed to study the Northern Lights — was launched from Norway’s northwest coast. Russian radar spotted the rocket and an alert was sent to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He was brought his nuclear-command suitcase and had about eight minutes to decide what to do! The Russian command-and-control system went into combat mode as Yeltsin conferred with members of his defence staff and Russian strategic forces were alerted. This false alarm was due to a misplaced letter sent

by the Norwegian Foreign Ministry informing neighboring countries, including Russia, of the impending launch. The letter got lost in the Russian bureaucracy and never made it to the radar crews.

India and Pakistan’s recent nuclear weapons tests demonstrate that without a comprehensive, global ban, nuclear weapons will spread. The choice is between abolition or proliferation. Unfortunately, although the 1968 Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty obligated nuclear weapon states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, none has shown any concrete steps to fulfill that obligation.

The Presidential Decision Directive 60, signed in November 1997, says the United States will retain nuclear weapons for the “indefinite future.” Russian military doctrine has recently been modified to incorporate an increased reliance on nuclear weapons, making it more closely resemble NATO’s nuclear policies. At the same time, there are growing concerns about the degradation of Russia’s nuclear command and control system due to the disintegration of its economy. A 1998 report by Germany’s Peace and Conflict Research Foundation claimed serious problems with early warning systems in Russia meant nuclear weapons were often kept in a permanent state of alert and could be launched within minutes of a real or imagined attack.

NATO countries, for their part, confirmed in December 1997 “nuclear forces continue to play an essential role in NATO strategy” and they foresee no future need

to change any aspect of their nuclear posture or policy. Canada is a member of NATO. Although Canada doesn’t possess nuclear weapons and, in principle, opposes their proliferation and supports nuclear disarmament, we are nonetheless implicated in the persistence of these weapons. Canada considers its allies’ nuclear umbrella as part of its defence policy; permits nuclear weapon deployment in Canada during crises; maintains communication sites for nuclear forces; produces and exports parts for nuclear bombers and submarines; and generally supports U.S. and NATO nuclear policies, which include possible first use of nuclear weapons.

Fortunately, there is growing recognition nuclear weapons must be abolished. In July 1996, the International Court of Justice issued an advisory opinion casting doubt on the legality of almost all uses of nuclear weapons and concluded “there exists an obligation to pursue in good faith and bring to a conclusion negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects.”

On Nov. 13, 1998, 97 nations voted in favor of a UN resolution calling upon the nuclear weapons states to commit themselves unequivocally to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons. Canada abstained — a significant and positive shift in foreign policy since the U.S., Britain and France strongly opposed the resolution and the U.S. put tremendous pressure on Canada to oppose it.

Another positive step is the Dec. 10, 1998 report of the House of Commons’

Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade on “Canada and the Nuclear Challenge.” The first of its 15 recommendations calls for Canada to “work consistently to reduce the political legitimacy and value of nuclear weapons in order to contribute to the goal of their progressive reduction and eventual elimination.” In addition, Canada, alongside other NATO members, has called for a review of NATO’s first-use policy later this year.

Abolition 2000 is a growing international movement. Its objective is to convince those governments possessing nuclear weapons to commit by 2000 to enter into negotiations establishing a timetable for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Canadians are being asked to sign the following petition:

“I believe the use and threat of use of nuclear weapons are abhorrent and morally wrong. I call on the Government of Canada to work with other nations to initiate immediately and conclude by the year 2000 a convention which will set out a binding timetable for the abolition of all nuclear weapons in the world.”

Project Ploughshares Edmonton is coordinating the Abolition 2000 campaign locally. We invite members of the University of Alberta community to join this world-wide movement by signing the petition. A copy of the petition and further information can be obtained by calling Project Ploughshares Edmonton at 988-4924 or by contacting: tim.hartnagel@ualberta.ca or tom.keating@ualberta.ca ■

Special Places 2000: Where are they?

Environmentalists rank program to protect Alberta’s environment a failure

By Barbara Every

Write a letter to the editor of the local paper. Communicate with the Premier’s Office. Contribute to wilderness groups. Get active. That’s the prescription for changing public policy from four panel speakers at a recent event called “Special Places 2000: Science, Economics, and Politics.” The Special Places 2000 program was created by the Alberta government in 1995 to form a network of provincially protected wilderness areas. On March 1, 1999, Alberta Minister of Environmental Protection Ty Lund introduced the controversial Natural Heritage Act (Bill 15) to improve the network’s management. The panelists debated the newly proposed act and what they consider to be a complete failure — or precipitously close to it — of Special Places 2000.

Moderated by Dr. Gurston Dacks, an associate dean of arts, the panel drew three University of Alberta professors: Dr. Suzanne Bayley, Department of Biological Sciences, Dr. Ray Rasmussen, Faculty of Business and Dr. Terry Veeman, Department of Economics and Rural Economy. The fourth speaker was conservationist and sessional instructor, Peter Lee, Alberta director of World Wildlife Fund Canada.

Lund was invited to participate but he declined.

Bayley stressed the scientific importance of a Special Places program in preserving the six natural regions of Alberta:

With only 0.4 per cent of the province protected after four years, the Special Places 2000 program is ranked a staggering failure of historic proportions.

— Peter Lee, Alberta director, World Wildlife Fund Canada

Boreal Forest, Canadian Shield, Foothills, Rocky Mountains, Parkland, and Grasslands. She described how conflicting land uses — logging, forestry, oil and gas extraction, mining, tourism, agriculture — cumulatively change natural areas and place wildlife, especially large mammals, at risk.

A seasoned field researcher, Bayley is nonetheless “astounded” at the rate of landscape change. “If we don’t do something fast to change our legislation, we’ll have the same situation as in Europe and Eastern Canada, where we have small patches of parks that we use for recreation but no large-scale undisturbed patches of landscape.”

Lee also had grave concerns about the future of protected sites. He said despite government claims of 46 sites, only 12 were established as a direct result of Special Places 2000, at a cost of \$2.5 million per site. He spoke of political interference and his belief government “is not listen-

ing to science, industry, polls, or local people.” Said Lee: “Ninety-three per cent of Albertans support a network of protected areas in Alberta with no industrial use.” But according to the Environmental Law Centre, “Bill 15 sets up terms of protection that leave open so many exceptions that protection need never impact on industrial development,” added Lee. And with only 0.4 per cent of the province protected after four years, Lee graded the program as “a staggering failure of historic proportions.”

“If industry is for protection, 93 per cent of Albertans are for it and environmentalists are for it, what’s wrong?” asked Rasmussen. He found a mismatch in values between the program, politicians and local citizens undermined Special Places. Program values like biodiversity, research, education, and security for future generations differed from politicians’ values of maximizing royalties and minimizing taxation. He believes the government announces how well it is doing and then cites false statistics to “paralyse 95 per cent of the electorate because most of us can’t make up our minds.” His solution includes government commitment

to program values, public education, arm’s-length managers and legislation.

Veeman approached Special Places from an economic standpoint. He outlined the incompatibility between values associ-

Development is like a one-way ratchet — you always go upward but seldom come down. The real issue is to protect [the landscape] while we still have it.

— Dr. Suzanne Bayley, Biological Sciences

ated with preserving and with developing unique natural areas. If you make a poor choice about development, “you can foist major social costs on the next generation,” he said. Although Veeman agreed the planning process was flawed, he thinks the environmental movement will have to “accept minor uses as the provincial area under protection grows to five per cent.” The tricky part, he added, is he doesn’t “regard the oil and gas industries as a minor use.”

Should the government abandon the Natural Heritage Act? Veeman felt the government may be trying to stay flexible for the oil and gas industries. But Rasmussen worried future governments would be tempted to allow resource extraction “with the stroke of a pen.” Added Bayley: “Development is like a one-way ratchet — you always go upward but seldom come down. The real issue is to protect [the landscape] while we still have it.” ■

U of A students score high in global battle of the brains

By **Lucianna Ciccocioppo**

A team of U of A students completed five out of eight computing science problems in an international battle of the brains recently, placing the U of A among the Top 10 North American universities, and the second in Canada.

The U of A was in good company, beating out Cornell and John Hopkins universities and the University of Toronto.

Like so many other

things in life, the key

is solving problems.

The rest is great fun.

— Richard Krueger,
team member

said coach, Dr. Piotr Rudnicki, Department of Computing Science. No one attempted the killer question, adds Rudnicki, “so it’s the best out of seven, really.”

Overall, the U of A team tied for a respectable 11th place finish among its 62 global competitors.

The ACM International Collegiate Programming contest took place in The Netherlands last month at the Technical University of Eindhoven, with teams from universities and colleges around the world. And for the first time, African schools participated. The contest is dubbed the oldest and most prestigious computer programming competition in the world and has a 23-year history. Teams of three students — two under-

graduates and one graduate — work on real-world problems against a maximum five-hour time limit.

Adam Beacham, Richard Krueger, Matthew McNaughton and “reservist” Paul Shelley were the “Green and Gold” players.

“It was a lot of work to prepare for the contest, especially with a full course load. But in the end, it was really worth it,” says Shelley.

“Going to Europe was a lot of fun and meeting all of the other teams from around the world was an excellent experience. I would say it was one of my best memories from university.”

Contests are held locally and regionally, in order for teams to qualify to advance to the world finals. Team U of A beat Calgary, Saskatchewan, Colorado and Utah universities to head to the finals this year.

“I was trying to keep my mind as blank as possible in order to conserve brain power, but I couldn’t help hoping a bit that we wouldn’t suck and would at least beat Utah and Colorado, the other teams there from our region,” says McNaughton.

Rudnicki even delights in Waterloo taking the top spot. “We practised together with Waterloo and Toronto. I developed a program to run over the Internet. Since

Waterloo won, we take part of the credit,” jokes Rudnicki.

The associate professor has been coaching U of A students for two years and says he finds it rewarding. They meet every Saturday, all day, from Christmas until April, to work on problem after problem. Anyone wishing to tackle the problems can download them from <http://acm.baylor.edu/acmicpc/>.

But here’s some advice from Krueger:

“Do honors math courses. There may not be a lot of math in the problems (there’s always a little), but the formalized reasoning helps immensely. The formal, logical mindset demanded by the honors profs allows quick and correct reasoning, crucial to success in the contest,” he says.

“You can be the best in the world at programming, but if you can’t solve problems quickly and thoroughly, you won’t win. Like so many other things in life, the key is solving problems. The rest is great fun.”

“It’s a pleasure to go to these competitions,” says Rudnicki. “You meet the best students around. Just being there is fun.”

This is U of A’s third try at the international finals. Next year, the finals take place in Orlando, Fla., and Rudnicki is already on the hunt to groom the next U of A team. ■



The U of A team with coach Piotr Rudnicki at the Technical University of Eindhoven in The Netherlands.

ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest World Finals 1999 — Final Standings

Rank	Name	Solved
1	University of Waterloo	6
2	Albert-Ludwigs Universität Freiburg	6
3	St. Petersburg Institute of Fine Mechanics and Optics	6
4	Bucharest Universitiy	6
5	Duke University	6
6	California Polytechnic State University	5
7	University of California at Berkeley	5
8	Harvard University	5
9	St. Petersburg State University	5
10	National Taiwan University	5
11	"POLITEHNICA" University of Bucharest	5
11	Warsaw University	5
11	Carnegie Mellon University	5
11	Poznan University of Technology	5
11	Tsinghua University, Beijing	5
11	University of Otago	5
11	University of Alberta	5

»» quick »» facts

Living in residence for student credit

By **Roger Armstrong**

Imagine a world where the lawn never needs mowing, your water consumption is negligible, your heating bills are down and you don’t know what to do with the extra money?

If it sounds too good to be true, just ask a group of human ecology students for some of their environmentally friendly home renovation ideas and it could be your reality.

Dr. Sandra Niessen’s Human Ecology 401 students have been working on novel renovation ideas for a U of A residence at 110th Street and Saskatchewan Drive. The ideas range from composting toilets and replacing grass with thyme (no mowing required), to energy-efficient appliances and water fixtures.

Some of the renovations to the house, which was built in the ‘20s, will take place this summer but the whole project is expected to take from three to five years to complete. Human ecology students will start to live in the house this fall and they will get credit for the work they do. The residents will also hold open houses from time to time to show people how their ideas are working.

Second-year human ecology student, Heather Lambert, says she would love to live in the renovated house. “I would get to live what I study.” She never imagined she would have the opportunity to work on an actual house while going to school.

“We are looking at the holistic well being of the house as a structure, of the residence living in the house and their relationship with nature,” says Melanie Beres, a fourth-year human ecology student. Beres enjoyed the practical aspect of



Front row: Lesley Stafiniak, Myrna Purser and Melanie Beres. Back row: Dr. Sandra Niessen, Colleen Gooz and Heather Lambert.

the class. She recommends the walls be filled with cellulose, which is treated shredded newspaper. It has a higher insulation value and is more environmentally friendly than fibreglass.

Other recommendations are to include an odorless composting toilet. It uses no water, decomposes 90 percent and creates useful compost, says Lambert. “I went to a house and a family of three has lived there for seven years. They have only had to remove the waste once,” says Lambert.

Lambert also looked at appliances. “You can reduce your electrical consumption by 60 per cent by replacing your 13-year-old refrigerator with a new one. They pay themselves off in a very short amount of time.”

Prof. Niessen and Director of Housing and Food Services David Bruch came up with the U of A-students-renovating-a-residence idea to bring academic life and residence life closer together.

“The idea is students from a particular program live in residence and there is a developed program in that living environment that is related to their academic interests,” says Bruch. By comparison, some American universities are using university housing as theme homes.

Niessen likes the practical nature of the project for the students. “It is so much more meaningful to them to actually be able to realize their ideas in a physical thing as opposed to just writing another student paper.” She sees herself more as a

coordinator than a contractor when it comes to the renovations. “I think of the house and human relationships that are incorporated in the house as an unlimited resource and that is what the house is going to be built on,” says Niessen. The budget for the renovations is \$43,000 but Niessen is busy getting corporate sponsorship for various aspects, such as Telus pitching in the latest in computer connects.

Niessen sees the project going into more experimental fields after the initial renovations are complete. “For instance, we can use this house as a lab to explore how telecommunications can assist older people with their lifestyles,” she says. As well, she wants to study how the curtains fade with light.

For U of A students, the enviro-house will be a 24-hour lab — and one step closer to completing a degree. ■

Environmentally friendly renovation ideas:

- Odorless composting toilet.
- Indoor worm composter (odorless).
- Energy-efficient appliances and water fixtures.
- All materials free of allergens, carcinogens and irritants.
- Solar panels and systems.
- Energy-efficient windows.
- Cellulose (recycled newspaper) for insulation.
- Use of thyme instead of grass (requires no mowing).

»» quick »» facts

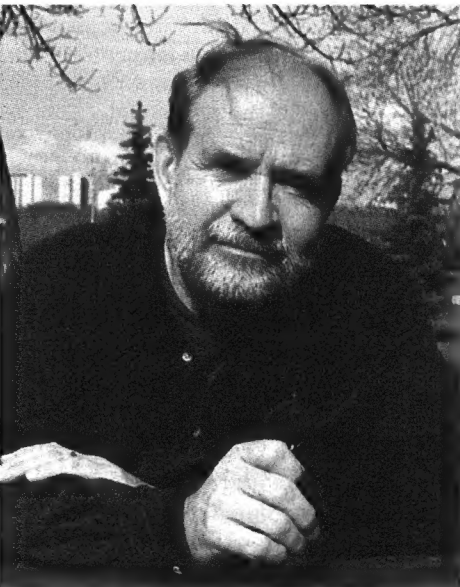
Magazine promotes dialogue across language divide

By Geoff McMaster

You'd think someone would have come up with the idea before now. What could make more sense in a bilingual country than a hip, intellectual magazine published in both languages simultaneously, one that opens up dialogue between the "two solitudes" in a thoughtful and provocative way, fruitfully occupying the territory between popular culture and the academic journal?

"It's such a simple idea," says Dr. Robert Richard, Faculté Saint-Jean sessional instructor and editor of *Confluences* magazine, which debuted at news-stands in major centres across the country last month. "This is the first time that thinkers and writers from across the language divide will be able to read each other in real time, rather than having to wait two months if not two years for translations."

The only other publication that comes close to *Confluences* is *Cité libre*, which has just released an English-language edition.



Faculté Saint-Jean's Dr. Robert Richard, editor of *Confluences* magazine.

However *Cité libre* is the voice of the Liberal Party of Canada, says Richard, and therefore "ideologically framed" in a way his own publication is not.

With an initial run of 10,000 copies and an 18-month plan to increase to 20,000, the Montreal-based *Confluences* is designed as a forum to reflect on the "rocky journey" Canada has seen since the 1980 national referendum, says Richard. Though its editorial position is generally left of centre, the magazine is also open to views further to the right.

"*Confluences* has no ideological goal or agenda... So on one side, you have a confluence of languages and then secondly a confluence of ideologies."

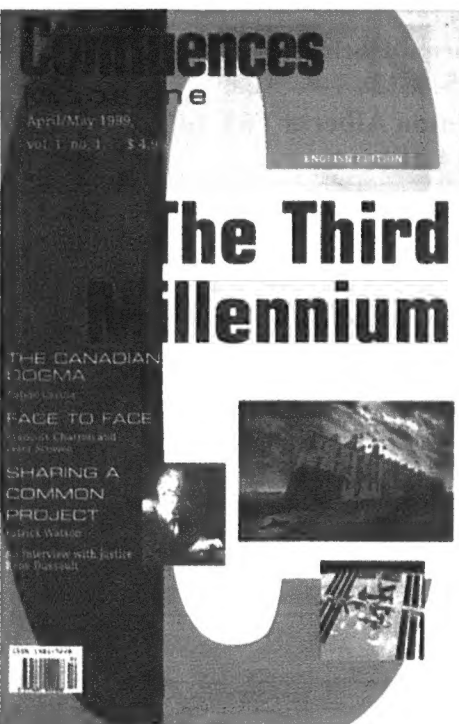
The first issue has articles on various questions of Canadian cultural identity by such luminaries as Patrick Watson and Desmond Morton, as well as by U of A professors Drs. Andy Knight and Tom Keating. There is also a "Face-to-Face" interview with poet and essayist François

Charron, one of Quebec's leading franco-phone intellectuals, and Peter Scowen, editor-in-chief of *Mirror and Hour*, Montreal's English-language weeklies.

"Both consider themselves traitors to their own communities," says Richard. "And they're both very proud of that, so we brought them together because they like to shake up ideas."

This is the first time
that thinkers and
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language divide will be
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in real time, rather
than having to wait
two months if not two
years for translations.

— Dr. Robert Richard,
Confluences editor



The public response so far has been encouraging, to say the least. After the Montreal launch in April, says Richard, "we felt the impact immediately — as soon as it hit the radio we had bookstores in Montreal calling and saying, 'We've just sold out — send us 30 copies!'" It's been leaping off bookshelves elsewhere in the country as well, he says. Even Whyte Avenue's Hub Cigars has sold out this issue.

While encouraging dialogue on national issues may be the primary "raison d'être" of the publication, Richard says it aspires to be much more than just "another constitutional effort." The magazine has a whole section devoted to international issues and distribution plans include countries in Asia, Africa and South America.

"This is the first time Canadians are going to be exporting views on the broad

Aboriginal people will
be able to recognize
that here's a magazine
coming out of the
English and French
cultures that believes
they have and should
have a very important
place in the debate.

— Dr. Robert Richard

Every issue will also include a section on aboriginal issues, a feature that has already made it attractive in the international community, says Richard. "Aboriginal people will be able to recognize that here's a magazine coming out of the English and French cultures that believes they have and should have a very important place in the debate."

"In the 21st century it will be the aboriginal question — world wide — that is going to force us to redefine all the great European terms like democracy, liberty — these huge political and sociological concepts."

The European launch of *Confluences* in Paris March 19 was also a resounding success. Available copies in both English and French sold "like hot cakes," says Richard. The Office of Foreign Affairs then snatched up 1,000 copies to promote through consulates and missions around the world.

"It's available in countries I can't even pronounce," says Richard, with more than a hint of satisfaction. ■

Number 99 hits the highway with solar power

Eco-car part of effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions

By Geoff McMaster

Call it a bold experiment. On a shoestring budget, a team of U of A students will race Alberta's first-ever solar car against some of the toughest competition in North America next month.

None of them has ever done anything like this before, according to team leader Jesse Row. The students have only been at it since last August, building the car from scratch, and it won't be finished until mere weeks before the Sunrayce 99 Competition kicks off June 20. But when their entry finally hits the pavement in Washington, D.C. for the 21,000 km, nine-day trek to Orlando, Fla., they have every confidence it'll keep pace with the swiftest.

"We're hoping to be among the best of the rookie teams — that's our goal," says Row. Some of the schools in the race, such as MIT and Western Michigan, have budgets as high as \$500,000, compared to the U of A's modest \$170,000. They've also been at the game a lot longer, some for as many as 12 years. But none of that phases Row and his teammates, who have named their car 99 after this city's greatest champion.

"It's going to be a complete car," says Row. "We're just not as extravagant as a lot of [the competitors]," says Row.

A model of the soon-to-be-complete 99 was on display last week when federal Environment Minister Christine Stewart visited the campus. Stewart announced \$218,881 in funding for seven Eco-Action 2000 projects in the province and outlined the first annual Canada Commuter Challenge aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In conjunction with National

Environment Week, the challenge is a nation-wide, clean-air day June 2 during which Canadians will be encouraged to leave their cars at home.

"Perhaps we could make an exception for a solar vehicle," said Stewart. "Young people at this university working together with faculty, bringing together new technologies such as we see in the solar vehicle, are just the kind of creativity and innovation we need not just in the Alberta but across the country. I know that you win the race just by putting it together and having it move — that's an enormous achievement."

A solar car uses special cells to capture sunlight and convert it into electricity, charging batteries that run the

vehicle. Row says the average speed of cars during a race is about 74 km per hour, and they are easily capable of reaching highway speed limits. How much energy

you use, however, and when, become crucial matters of strategy.

Bringing 99 to fruition required the efforts of close to 80 students in mechanical, electrical, computer, civil, chemical and petroleum engineering, says Row, as well as some students in art and design, marketing and business. The cost of actually building the car should finish at about \$95,000, when all the parts fall into place later this month.

"We've got a lot of pieces right now — we just have to put them all together," says Row. "...You don't know what's going to happen until you actually get out

there. Automotive companies have been developing their designs for 90 to 100 years...we've been working for a year and a half, and we got something that will hopefully work really well."

"Our goal is basically to build Alberta's first-ever solar car," says public relations director Arthur Chan. "Making it down to the race is really special and doing well would just be the icing on the cake."

Major sponsors for the vehicle include Epcor, who came up with the first \$20,000 to get the project off the ground, and BP Amoco, who covered the cost of the entire solar ray valued at about \$44,000. ■

Automotive companies
have been developing
their designs for 90 to
100 years... we've
been working for a
year and a half, and
we got something
that will hopefully
work really well

— Jesse Row, solar
car team leader



Dean of Engineering David Lynch with federal Minister of Environment Christine Stewart, Dr. Robert Fedosejevs, 99 and members of 99's construction team.

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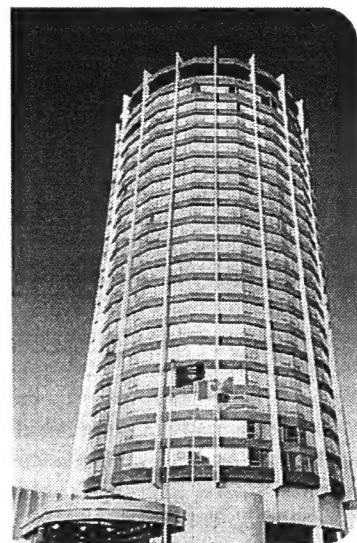
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In Memoriam

Dr. Duncan Darroch Campbell (1919-1999)

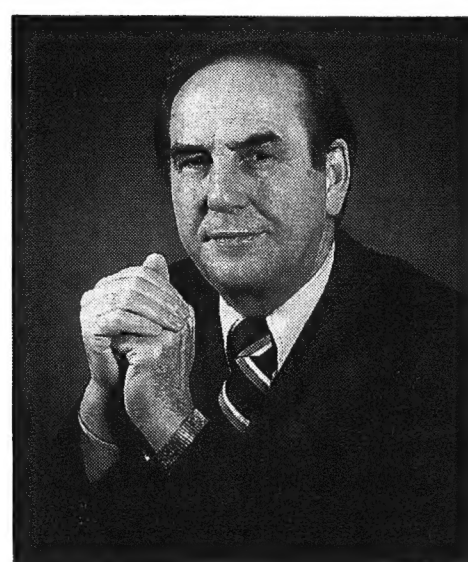
Fifty years ago, the University of Alberta hired an extension lecturer whose influence would be felt far beyond the campus boundaries. In his 35 years of teaching, research and leadership at the University of Alberta, Dr. Duncan Campbell helped to redefine continuing education's role on campus and in the community—and to shape the efforts of university continuing education in the province and across the country.

On April 23, Dr. Campbell passed away at 80 from the cumulative effects of Alzheimer disease. From 1956-1974, he served as director of the then-Department of Extension. During that time, Dr. Campbell oversaw the transformation of extension from a department reaching out to a primarily rural audience into a modern continuing education centre offering programs in business, professional, and technical areas, community development, public administration, fine arts and liberal studies.

With his booming voice and larger-than-life presence, Dr. Campbell thrived on challenge. Born in Medicine Hat, he earned his first degree in economics at the University of British Columbia. He completed his master of arts in political economy at the University of Alberta in 1957, and earned a PhD in higher education from the University of Toronto in 1972. He authored three books, including an analysis of the tenure of U of A President Walter Johns.

Fiercely committed to the academic and scholarly dimension of university extension, Dr. Campbell recruited tenure-track faculty to direct extension programs and introduced more formal, structured programs of study, including several certificate programs. His efforts set the stage for the evolution of extension from a department to a faculty in 1975.

In addition, Dr. Campbell was a strong advocate for adult education throughout the province. He initiated a Division of



Dr. Duncan Campbell

Continuing Education at (what would later become) the University of Calgary, and his continuing education efforts extended to Lethbridge prior to the establishment of post-secondary institutions there. Dr. Campbell was also a principal in the creation of Canada's first educational television station (The Metropolitan Edmonton Educational Television Association) and helped to found the Canadian Association for University Continuing Education.

Throughout his career Dr. Campbell embraced teaching and learning, continuing his research and writing activities as Professor Emeritus after his retirement in 1984. His interests were wide-ranging—from the lines of poetry he loved to recite to the process of change in higher education to the finer points of Scottish history.

Dr. Campbell leaves behind his wife, former Edmonton city councillor, Lois Campbell, four children and six grandchildren. Those wishing to pay tribute to Dr. Campbell may make a donation to the Alzheimer Society of Edmonton or the Salvation Army in his memory. ■

WRITERS GUILD HONORS U OF A TALENT

U of A writing and publishing made a respectable showing at the 1999 Alberta Book Awards Gala last week, picking up a trio of awards. The event was sponsored by the Alberta Writers Guild and the Book Publishers Association of Alberta.

English professor Dr. Greg Hollingshead won the guild's George Bugnet Award for Best Novel for *The Healer*, and Dr. Rudy Wiebe and Yvonne Johnson took the guild's Wilfred Eggleston Award for Non-Fiction for *Stolen Life*. From the Book publishers association of Alberta, the *Alberta Elders' Cree Dictionary: alperta ohci kehtehayak nehniyaw* garnered top honors in the scholarly book of the year category.

The Alberta Book Awards are presented annually to recognize excellence in writing, design and illustration. ■

CASE CANADIAN PROFESSOR OF THE YEAR 1999

Call for entries

The University of Alberta may nominate three professors for this prestigious award. If more than three are nominated, the Office of the Vice-President Academic will make the final selection.

Nomination packages must be received by Bente Roed, director, University Teaching Services by no later than **NOON, Friday, May 21, 1999.**

The University of Alberta has two Canadian Professor of the Year awardees: Dr. Jim Vargo, Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine (1994) and Dr. Andy Liu, Department of Mathematical Sciences (1998).

For further information and for nomination forms, please call UTS at ext. 2826.

Leading through Learning - An APO Conference

June 22 (evening)
and June 23 (all day)

- * Explore how to keep learning on track with today's rate of change
- * Discover "action learning"
- * Solve real problems in real time

The conference will start with a Learning Showcase and dinner with guest speaker Lois Hole.

Wednesday will be a full-day session facilitated by Marilyn Herasymowych at the Devonian Botanic Garden.

Watch for your invitation, and RSVP early! The first 50 registrants will be entered in a draw to have their conference fee remitted.

For more information, contact Lynn Burnett Murphy, 3-67 Assiniboia Hall, phone 492-6488, fax 492-8765.



talks

Submit talks to Brenda Briggs by 9 a.m. one week prior to publication. Fax 492-2997 or e-mail at publicaffairs@ualberta.ca.

ALBERTA HERITAGE FOUNDATION FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

May 14, Noon

Dr. Michelle Bendeck, Assistant Professor, Cardiology Research, St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, "Matrix Metalloproteinases: Role in vascular remodeling in response to arterial injury", hosted by Dr. R. Schulz. Seminar Room 9.68 Medical Sciences Building.

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Distinguished Lecture Series

May 11, 4:00 pm

Speaker: Richard Taylor, Professor, Information and Computer Science, University of California, Irvine, "Architecture-Based Software Engineering." Extension Center 2-34. Refreshments served at 3:30 pm.

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

May 10, 2:00 pm

Visiting speaker Professor John Blanchard, Department of Biochemistry, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Yeshiva University, Bronx, NY, "The structures and mechanisms of enzymes of bacterial lysine biosynthesis." Room V-107 Physics Wing.

DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACOLOGY

May 13, 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Dr. David Brindley, PhD, Signal Transduction Laboratories, Faculty of Medicine, UofA and Dr. Edmond Ryan, MD, Division of Endocrinology, Faculty of Medicine, UofA, "Insulin signaling pathways: understanding insulin resistance and its clinical management". Room HMRC 207. RSVP to Joy at 492-0511.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSIOLOGY

May 7, 3:30 pm

Dr. Spencer Gibson, Department of Pediatrics, National Jewish Medical and Research Center, Denver, Colorado, "Regulation of apoptosis and cell survival: a matter of life and death," introduced by Dr. Esmond J. Sanders. 207 HMRC.

JOHN DOSSETOR HEALTH ETHICS CENTRE

May 14, Noon

Dr. Paul Byrne, "Informed Consent in Critical Care: Fact or Fiction." 227 Aberhart Centre Two.

PERINATAL RESEARCH CENTRE

May 18, 12:00 pm

As part of Spring '99 Lecture Series: Dr. Don Morrish, Professor, Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology, UofA, "To Be Announced." 207 HMRC.

events

BANQUET

CANADIAN FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN (EDMONTON)

May 17

The Annual Banquet of the Canadian Federation of University Women (Edmonton) will be held Monday, May 17, 1999 at the Faculty Club, University of Alberta Campus, 11435 Saskatchewan Drive. Cocktails served at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Guest speaker will be the Honourable Anne McLellan, Minister of Justice and Attorney General of Canada. Tickets are \$25.00 and can be purchased from Margery (426-4110) until May 10, 1999. All women university graduates are welcome.

SYMPOSIUM

CAMPUS COMPUTING SYMPOSIUM 1999

Knowledge through Technology

June 21 - 25

Every two years a computing symposium is held on campus to promote synergies among faculty and staff who use various technologies for instruction, technical support, administration, and research. Tory Lecture Theater complex, University of Alberta. Symposium 1999 will include five streams: General Interest, Technology and Learning, Research Computing - Tools for Discovery, U of A Enterprise, and Technical Support in Distributed Environment. Also features a number of keynote speakers, including UBC's Professor Murray Goldberg (the creative force behind the development of the WebCT online course authoring

tools), and Clifford Lynch, Director of the Coalition for Networked Information (Washington, DC). Detailed information and online registration: www.ualberta.ca/symposium

WESTERN CANADIAN CENTRE OF STUDIES IN DEAFNESS

ANNUAL ELAINE KRAMAR LECTURE IN COMMUNICATION DISORDERS

May 10, 3:00 pm

Dr. Jay McSpaden, Audiologist, Director of Audiologist Services and Teacher/Professor of the Deaf, "Ears 2 U: A Lecture on Hearing, Listening and Communication." Sign language interpreters, real-time captioning, assistive listening devices will be provided. 2-115 Education North. For information call 492-5213 (v).

WORKSHOPS

CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

May 19, 1:30 pm

"Creating Resumes and Covering Letters that Work!" To register, call 492-4291 or visit CaPS office at 2-100 Students' Union Building. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

CAREER AND PLACEMENT SERVICES

May 20, 1:30 pm

"Job Interviews." To register, call 492-4291 or visit CaPS office at 2-100 Students' Union Building. Office hours are 8:00 am to 4:00 pm Monday through Friday.

Award for 1999 by the U.S.-based Academy of Management—the highest academic award in the profession.

U OF A PROFESSOR TAKES HELM OF REGIONAL PHYSICIANS' ASSOCIATION

Dr. Anthony Fields, a professor of oncology and medicine at the U of A and director of the Cross Cancer Institute, was elected governor for the Alberta region of the American College of Physicians-American Society of Internal Medicine (ACP-ASIM).

ACP-ASIM is the largest medical specialty organization in the U.S., with more than 115,000 internal medicine physicians and medical students, including more than 200 in the Alberta region. Internists are specialists in adult medicine and provide comprehensive care to adult patients.

Fields was elected to a four-year term by the local membership and will plan scientific meetings, accredit new members and disseminate college policy, among other duties. He will also represent the Alberta regional members on the board of governors.

Fields earned his master's degree at the University of Cambridge and his medical degree from the University of Alberta. He received the Moshier Memorial gold medal for the highest academic standing. Medical students selected Fields as professor of the year in 1983 and 1984.

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Mr. Harley N. Hotchkiss



The Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research is pleased to announce a new appointment to its Board of Trustees. Mr. Harley N. Hotchkiss was appointed by the Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Alberta by an Order in Council March 31, 1999.

A Calgary based-businessman, Mr. Hotchkiss manages his own oil, gas, real estate and agricultural enterprises. He is a member of several Canadian and American professional societies relating to petroleum and mineral exploration, and serves on a number of boards including Alberta Energy Company Ltd., Jascan Resources Ltd., and TransCanada Pipelines Limited. A member of the Foothills Hospital Development Council and past Chairman of the Foothills Hospital Board, Mr. Hotchkiss has been involved in a number of community activities including the Banff Centre, the Manning Awards, the Olympic Trust of Canada, and the Michigan State University Foundation. He serves as governor of the Calgary Flames and was elected Chairman of the NHL Board of Governors in 1995 and re-elected in 1997. Mr. Hotchkiss holds an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Calgary and was awarded the Alberta Order of Excellence in 1998. He is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

Since 1980, the AHFMR has awarded more than \$575 million to researchers at the University of Alberta, the University of Calgary, the University of Lethbridge and their affiliated institutions. Heritage scientists recruited in Alberta, from other parts of Canada and from around the world are earning international acclaim for their research advances in such fields as heart function, genetics, cancer, diabetes, and population health. Heritage researchers attract \$2-3 in outside funding for every AHFMR dollar received.

AHFMR was highly commended for its record of achievements and the excellence of its activities throughout the province in a Report prepared by members of an International Board of Review in December, 1998.

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THE "EAGLE" HAS LANDED—AT THE FACULTY OF BUSINESS

The Faculty of Business' Department of Organizational Analysis (OA) has won the 1999 Eagle Award by the Human Resources Management Association of Edmonton.

The award recognizes unique contributions in the field, as well as demonstrated commitment to the work, innovation and creativity, human resources development, knowledge, expertise and experience in the area. More important, the award is a recognition of expertise as a community leader.

The organizational analysis department has recently established the Centre for Professional Service Firm Development, an emerging area of excellence at the U of A. It also conducts research on teleworkers, quality of life issues for displaced health-care workers, labor-management relations and women in the workplace. OA integrates human resource professionals within the academic curriculum and the department regularly consults to industry on professional service firm development, entrepreneurship and small business.

The OA department is ranked first in Canada with respect to publications in top tier journals and 10th internationally with respect to number of articles per department placed in senior journals of the Academy of Management. Recently, Professor Bob Hinings was awarded the Distinguished Scholar

U of A Accommodation Guide

These facilities have contracted with the University of Alberta to provide accommodations at the rates indicated. Each facility has unique features and offers something to suit everyone's taste. To accommodate special guests to the University, reservations can be made using the Hotel Authorization Program (HAP) form which allows post-payment by the hosting department.

These rates are per night and are exclusive of convention conference rates which are established by conference/convention organizers. Rates valid to December 31, 1999 unless otherwise noted, taxes not included.



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positions

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ASSISTANT REGISTRAR (INFORMATION SYSTEMS) ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL OFFICER

The University of Alberta invites applications for a systems professional to lead the Information Systems group within the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards.

The Information Systems group provides technical support services to over 80 full-time continuing staff members and 30 term and seasonal staff members. The group also supports the campus community through the handling of a diverse set of tasks such as application programming and maintenance, scheduling and production for operational systems, report writing, statistical reporting, Web applications, network administration, conversion and configuration audits for the new student information system, and extensive table maintenance. As a senior Information Technology professional, the Assistant Registrar provides leadership and consultation in the identification and establishment of technology directions and systems administration, and participates in management and analysis tasks related to University-wide systems development initiatives. The Assistant Registrar ensures technical coordination between other technology providers and the Office of the Registrar and Student Awards. The Assistant Registrar (Information Systems) reports to the Associate Registrar (Administrative Systems), and manages nine team members.

If you are the successful candidate, your background includes experience in project management, application management plans and strategies, definition of technology best suited to support business objectives, development of technology standards and data architectures, experience in working with relational data bases, ORACLE, and SQL.

The position requires expert knowledge of systems and network administration tasks and experience in several programming languages such as Perl, C++, HTML, CGI, and UNIX/NT scripting.

You have expert analytical skills. Your extensive experience with LAN, WAN and Web applications will be well used in the leadership role you will play in the introduction of new systems.

Candidates should have certification in advanced UNIX administration, MCSE coursework, and should qualify for membership in professional Information Technology associations.

Present salary range: \$40,000 to \$60,000 (under review).

The acting incumbent will be a candidate for the position.

Applicants are welcome to submit a resume, covering letter and list of three professional references by **Friday, May 21, 1999** to:

Brian J. Silzer
Associate Vice-President and Registrar
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2M7

ARCHIVIST (UNIVERSITY RECORDS)

One of Canada's largest research-intensive universities with an enrollment of more than 30,000 students seeks outstanding candidates for a position as Archivist (University Records). This is a full-time permanent academic appointment.

The University of Alberta Archives, established in 1968, has more than 3000 linear metres of archival records including approximately 100,000 photographs relating to the history of the university, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada and higher education. These permanently valuable primary sources are preserved to support the university's mission of research and teaching and to facilitate effective and efficient administration. In addition, the University Archives provides internal consulting services to faculties, departments and administrative units in records and information management and the Alberta Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation.

Reporting to the University Archivist, the Archivist (University Records) must be fully aware of archival and records and information theories, practices and technologies. The Archivist (University Records) must be able to apply these theories, practices and technologies in a creative manner in seeking solutions to ever complex problems, such as those posed by automation, freedom of information and privacy legislation, and electronic records. The Archivist (University Records) must be prepared to assist in positioning the University Archives in partnerships with other units in the information, research and teaching environments of the university.

The ideal candidate is an effective communicator and a consummate professional in the broad fields of archives and records and information management. A graduate of a master of archival studies program with a minimum of five years experience or a graduate with an equivalent degree and experi-

ence, the Archivist (University Records) will be thoroughly conversant with current trends in the field, including records schedules and disposals, the Rules of Archival Description, electronic records, and the impact of technology on records creation, use and disposition and the impact of Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy legislation. Appreciative of the research and teaching needs of scholarship as well as the demands of administration for timely, concise and accurate information, the incumbent will have a proven record of meeting these needs and satisfying these demands. The incumbent should have experience in working in a team/project management environment. Salary range is \$36,000 - \$54,000 per annum (under review). Interested candidates should submit a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of three references by June 4, 1999 to:

Bryan Corbett
University Archivist
Ring House 1
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E2

FOIPP CONSULTANT

The Office of the Vice-President (Academic) and Provost is seeking the services of a FOIPP Consultant. The initial appointment will be for a period of eight months commencing June 1, 1999 with some possibility of renewal.

Reporting to the Associate Vice President (Academic Administration) the FOIPP consultant will:

- Offer advice and consultation to senior administrative units (i.e. President's Office, Vice-President's Offices, University Secretariat) on matters related to FOIPP.
- Perform FOIPP readiness audits on request of senior administrative units.
- Assist in the drafting of FOIPP-related policies with senior administrative units.
- Conclude information-sharing agreements for senior administrative units.
- Offer advice and consultation on information requests received by senior administrative units under FOIPP.

This appointment will be governed by the Sessional and Other Temporary Academic Staff Agreement. Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Experience in a university setting will be desirable. Knowledge and experience with freedom of information and protection of privacy legislation and its implementation is essential. Please direct applications by May 17, 1999 to:

Mr. Fran Trehearne
Associate VP (Academic Administration)
3-12 H University Hall
University of Alberta
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2J9

MANAGER, GRAPHIC DESIGN AND PHOTOGRAPHY SERVICES TECHNICAL RESOURCE GROUP

The University of Alberta's Technical Resource Group requires a senior visual communication professional to manage its combined Graphic Design and Photography Services.

Reporting to the director, Technical Resource Group, the manager will be responsible for providing the university community with visually effective and cost efficient graphic design and photography services. He/she will direct the activities of permanent and/or contract personnel working in two complementary operational units, the Design Studio and the Imaging Centre. He/she will be accountable for assessing client visual communication needs and developing appropriate solutions, managing the service unit's operational resources and participating in the development and maintenance of the overall visual identity philosophy adopted by the university.

The successful applicant will have well-developed management/leadership abilities, excellent written and verbal communication skills, extensive experience in the visual communication field and a solid understanding of the university's research, teaching and community service environment.

The manager, Graphic Design and Photography Services, must hold a university degree and have extensive experience in a senior visual communication post. This position is classified as an Administrative and Professional Officer with a current salary range of \$39,463 to \$59,192 which is subject to the university's 1999-2000 scale adjustment.

The closing date for this position is May 14, 1999. Those interested in applying should forward their resumes to:

Judith E. Ross, Director
Technical Resource Group
101 Industrial Design Studio
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Ads are charged at \$0.50 per word. Minimum charge: \$3.00. All advertisements must be paid for in full by cash or cheque at the time of their submission. Bookings may be made by fax or mail provided payment is received by mail prior to the deadline date. Pre-paid accounts can be set up for frequent advertisers. Please call 492-2325 for more information.

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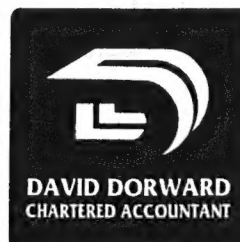
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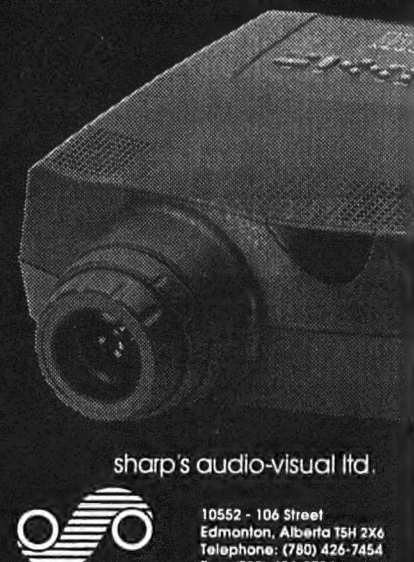
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JOURNEY INTO FITNESS

Developed through the U of A, this lifestyle enhancement program is for those interested in enhancing their physical health, well-being, eating and exercise behaviors. Based on experience, research and practice of the Fitness and Lifestyle Centre, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation, and Be Fit for Life Centre, this program includes the opportunity to interact with fitness and health professionals in developing new information. For more information or to hear about the introductory session, please call Phil Wilson, 492-7424 or Cheryl, 492-4435.

EXERSIZE

Are you a larger-sized individual interested in improving your health? Exersize is a physical activity program developed at the U of A for people with larger body types interested in improving their health and learning more about physical activity, dieting, and healthy lifestyle behaviors. Program content is based on the experience, research and practice of the Fitness and Lifestyle Centre, Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation and Be Fit for Life Centre. Sessions are led by qualified fitness instructors and tailored to individual needs and abilities. Includes an array of physical activities, fitness appraisal opportunities and monitoring, and monthly

presentations on important health topics, such as dieting and nutrition. For information please call Phil Wilson, 492-7424 or Cheryl, 492-4435.

REVIEW OF DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF UKRAINIAN STUDIES

The current five-year term of Dr. Zenon Kohut, director, Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies, concludes on June 30, 1999. Dr Kohut has indicated he intends to stand for another five-year term.

Section 103.4.4 of the GFC Policy Manual states selection and review procedures for the directors of the Interdisciplinary Research Units shall follow those used for department chairs, *mutatis mutandis* (as interpreted by the President). With this authority, Associate Vice-President (Research) Bill McBlain has convened a review committee for Dr. Kohut.

Part of the review process is to invite feedback from the general university community concerning the performance of Dr. Kohut. Anyone wishing to comment on Dr. Kohut's performance as director of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies is invited to write to Dr. Bill McBlain, associate vice-president (research), 3-5 University Hall. Submissions should be received by May 31. If further information is required, please contact Dr. Katharine Moore at ext. 0868.

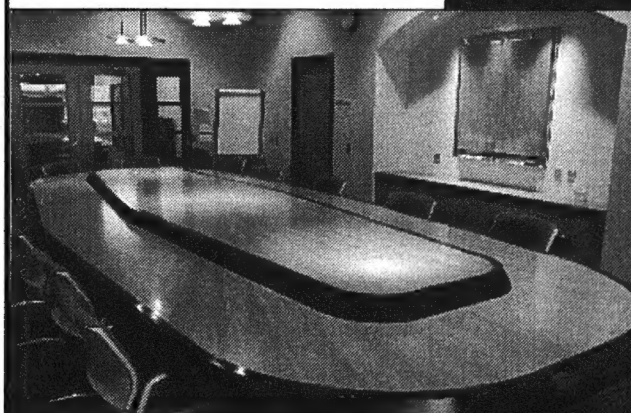
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—*Beginning with Chiles*

Dr. Jim Creechan confesses to being a “smuggler” once upon a time.

“I was an expert at travelling across borders with food,” jokes the sociologist and criminologist. He had to — there were hardly any Mexican chiles available in Canada twenty years ago. “And the tortillas were pathetic, too.”

But those days, thankfully, are long gone. The Faculty of Arts associate professor now relishes in the varieties available right here in Edmonton — and not just in Latino stores, either. He thanks NAFTA for the chile-flood: fresh serranos, jalapeños and habañeros can now be easily found.

In fact, he and his wife, Mary Lou Creechan, predict chiles will

Mary Lou Creechan,
co-author, *Beginning with Chiles*

soon be as popular as sun-dried tomatoes and balsamic vinegar.

Their new cookbook, *Beginning with Chiles*, was a three-year labor of love and is an introduction to the exotic world of chiles for the “scared stiff” but curious. It was a project based on their love for spicy, southwestern and Mexican foods. A sabbatical year in Mexico City, plus completing graduate degrees in Tuscon, Ariz., made the Creechans local and campus experts on chiles. Many friends turned to them for advice about what to do with the Mexican mainstay — even strangers.

“One woman in a grocery store asked me what to do with bell peppers,” says Jim Creechan, who was bagging some of them at the time. “Then she pointed to some chiles sitting next to them and asked about those.”

He was even part of a dinner club at the U of A, made up of Mexican food-crazy academics. “People called me want-

ing to get in on the dinners,” says Creechan, who was host several times. “Everybody would try to out-do one another.” The potluck fiestas soon became victim to their successes. With more than 60 members, it became too big to handle in one household.

As his chile expertise was expanding, so were the praises. And then came the contest. In 1994, Creechan entered his original heritage harvest blue corn bread recipe in *Chile Pepper* magazine, a U.S.-based publication (“A lot of ‘gringos’ subscribe to it; it’s almost cultish”). To his family’s surprise, Creechan won the ‘best of show’ and scored a public relations coup across Canada.

So it was only natural the Creechans eventually decided to share their love for chiles in a book. “The original idea was to have a very simple book,” says Mary Lou. “How to prepare chiles, with lots of pictures and guidelines. But it turned into something much bigger.”

Beginning with Chiles takes you into a sociological and cultural look of chiles in Mexican history. It’s more than 180 pages of facts and descriptions, history and recipes, shopping lists, Web sites, anecdotes and tidbits, plus chile charts and a recommended reading and fiesta list.

“People don’t really know much about Mexican food,” says Mary Lou. “We really wanted to give it its due. It’s one of the most complex foods in the world, next to Asian and French.”

Serrano chiles were favored by the Aztec tribes and to this day, are considered pure Mexican chiles. Jalapeños are found in Mexico and Texas, while the *muuy picante* habañeros are associated with the Mayans, who pop these roasted chiles like cookies into their mouths.

How hot is the habañero? On the chile heat scale, a bell pepper is one, a jalapeño is five and the habañero is 10–100,000 times hotter than the jalapeño!

The above are grouped in the book as the “snappies for salsa,” popular for dips, dressings and condiments. Public Affairs Assistant Brenda Briggs tested some of the recipes. “I found the food fairly easy to prepare, but I’d say the cookbook is ‘medium’ in difficulty for the beginner.” Briggs is a NAIT culinary arts graduate and says she cooks with jalapeños all the time. She whipped up *chiles relenos con maiz*, *mango jalapeño salsa*, and *black bean relish* in under two hours.

Says Jim Creechan: “If you want to learn about Mexican food, learn everything about chiles.” ■

Beginning with Chiles can be found at U of A Bookstores.

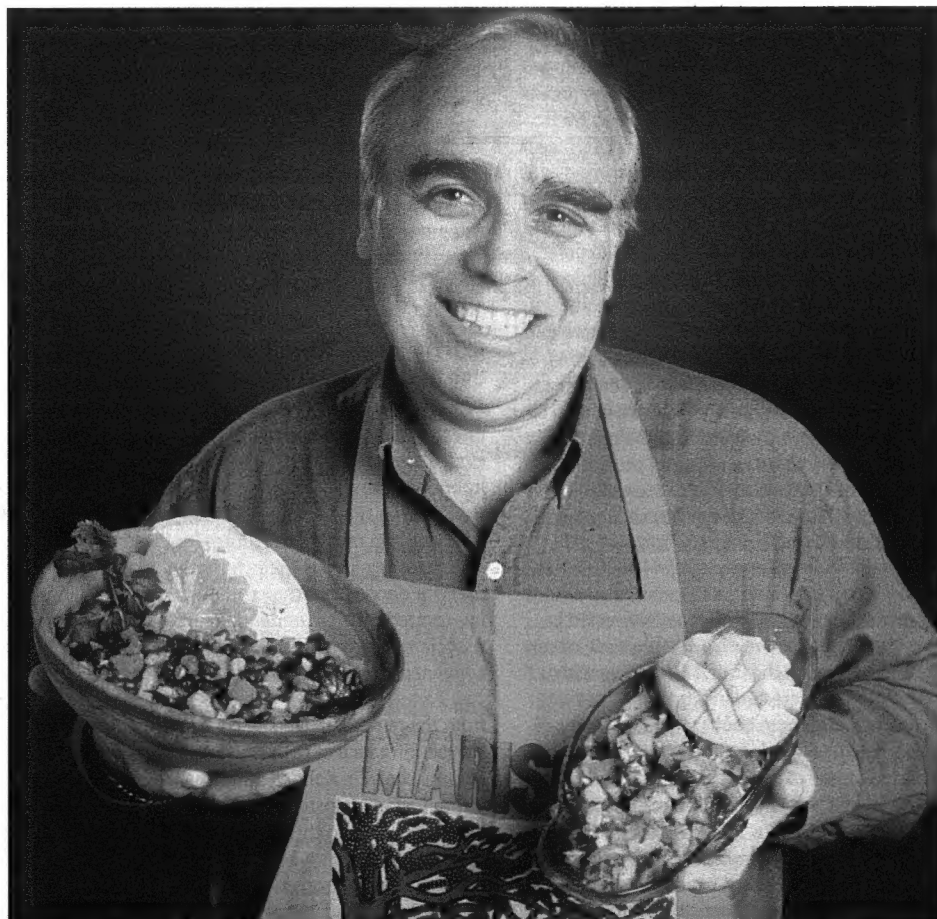
Hot Chile Facts:

- Generally, the smaller the chile the hotter
- Dried chiles are hotter than their fresh version.
- Fat, fleshy chiles pack more heat after they are smoked or pickled.
- Color is not an indication of heat level.
- Fresh chiles lose a little heat when cooked.
- Dried chiles gain a little heat when cooked.

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»» quick »» facts

folio **back page**



Dr. Jim Creechan savors black bean relish and mango jalapeño salsa found in *Beginning with Chiles*. Food prepared by culinary arts graduate and Public Affairs Assistant Brenda Briggs.

Photos: Jim Creechan

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